

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02
AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 /086 W
-----131429Z 049138 /43

R 131208Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4603
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY
COMIDEASTFOR
DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 1963

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PINR, SU, SO
SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STAFF DENIES SUDAN/SOMALIA DEFENSE AGREEMENT

REF: COMIDEASTFOR 081307Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS WITH ARMED
FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. MOHAMAD OSMAN HASHIM, WE
DISCUSSED HORN DEVELOPMENTS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON
SOMALIA. HASHIM RECENTLY LED SUDANESE MILITARY
DELEGATION TO MOGADISCIO AND HE RECEIVED SOMALI VICE
DEFENSE MINISTER HERE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HE STRESSED
POVERTY OF SOMALIA AND URGED US PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT RECAPTURING
OGADEN WAS FIRST PRIORITY FOR SOMALIS. HE INDICATED
SUDANGOV SUPPORTS SOMALIA ON THIS POINT.

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2. I ASKED WHETHER SUDAN AND SOMALIA HAD A
DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND HASHIM DENIED THAT ONE EXISTS.
I THEN NOTED THAT SUDAN HAS FORMAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT
WITH EGYPT (TO WHICH HE INTERJECTED QUOTE IT IS OUR
ONLY ONE UNQUOTE) AND AN INFORMAL ONE WITH SAUDI ARABIA
WHICH HE CONFIRMED. I THEN ASKED HOW HE WOULD DESCRIBE

SUDAN SOMALI RELATIONSHIP. HE REPLIED QUOTE SYMPATHETIC UNQUOTE. WHEN I NOTED PRESIDENT NIMEIRI IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW SAID SUDAN WOULD SUPPORT SOMALIA IN ANY WAR WITH ETHIOPIA, HASHIM SAID ONLY TIME THIS HAS BEEN STATED WAS IN NIMEIRI'S INTERVIEW.

3. COMMENT: CLEARLY SUDANESE-SOMALI POLITICAL AND MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS HAVE EXPANDED AND GROWN WARM AS THEIR MUTUAL ANTIPATHY TOWARD ETHIOPIA INTENSIFIES AND AS SUDANGOV MOVES TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO DRAW SOMALIA OUT FROM UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION. HOWEVER, CHIEF OF STAFF'S REMARKS INDICATE THAT NOT EVEN AN INFORMAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT YET EXISTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, GIVEN DEEP SUDANESE SUSPICION OF SOVIETS THAT NOW EXISTS, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF SUDANGOV YET WILLING ENTER INTO DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH SOMALIA WHILE POSSIBILITY EXISTS SENSITIVE INFO COULD REACH SOVIETS AND THROUGH THEM ETHIOPIANS AND LIBYANS. IT WAS CONCERN OVER THIS AND EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS HAD IN FACT PASSED SUCH INFO TO ITS ENEMIES THAT WAS PROXIMATE CAUSE FOR OUSTER OF SOVIETS FROM SUDAN DURING PAST FEW WEEKS.

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